

TERRITORY OF IDAHO.

MARCH 16, 1888.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MANSUR, from the Committee on the Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bills H. R. 1962 and 4429.]

The Committee on the Territories, having had under consideration the following bills, namely—

- A bill to annex a portion of the Territory of Idaho to Washington Territory being H. R. 4429;
- A bill to annex a portion of the Territory of Idaho to Washington Territory and Montana Territory, being H. R. 1962—

report as follows:

Your committee are of the opinion that there is no sufficient state of feeling existing at this time among the people to be affected by these bills in the northern part of Idaho and residing in the counties of Kootenai, Shoshone, Idaho, and Nez Perces as would justify your committee in reporting favorably these bills.

The question of dismembering the Territory of Idaho and annexing the four said counties to Washington and Montana has been before the people of Idaho in various shapes and forms for a period of twenty years or more, and originally sprang from the removal of the capital of the Territory from Lewiston, in Nez Perces County, to Boise City, in the south. A very great change has come over the people of these four counties since 1880, growing out of a rapid increase of population in said counties, as shown in the following statistics:

County.	1887.	1880.
Nez Perces.....	9,000	6,000
Idaho.....	4,250	2,000
Kootenai.....	2,500	150
Shoshone.....	8,500	200
Total.....	24,250	8,350

Your committee believe that the people of the county of Nez Perces are to-day in favor of being attached to the Territory of Washington, and do not believe that that feeling exists in the other three counties.

As evidence of the existing feeling at the present time, it may be stated that there is one newspaper in Kootenai County and one in Idaho County, each of which opposes the dismemberment of the Territory. In Shoshone County there are four, three of which are opposed thereto. In Nez Perces there are four, three of which are in favor of this bill and one against it. During the past few years over a thousand miles

of railroad have been built in the Territory, and it is now possible to get from any part of the four counties referred to to Boise in from thirty to thirty-six hours, and as cheaply as to get to the capital of Washington Territory. As an evidence of the present condition of feeling, it may be stated that the Hon. John Haley, who was a Delegate from Idaho and worked for annexing the four counties to Washington in the Forty-ninth Congress, in a letter dated January 10, of this year, addressed to Governor Stevenson, arguing against the dismemberment states as follows:

There was a time a few years ago when a portion of the people of Idaho wished to be annexed to Washington Territory. Their claims were pressed into political conventions, and both political parties in Idaho indorsed the right of three northern counties in Idaho to be annexed to Washington Territory. These conventions doubtless indorsed this move of the three northern counties for political purposes to get votes, as the northern counties held a balance of political power. I was elected in the Forty-ninth Congress on a platform that indorsed the annexation of three northern counties of Idaho to Washington. While I did not approve of this division, I felt that it was my duty to try and carry out the provisions of the platform, which I did. On my return I found that in so doing I had incurred the displeasure of a great many friends. In fact, I am fully satisfied now that full nine-tenths or more of the resident citizens of Idaho are opposed to any division of Idaho whatever. They desire to be left as they are. We are in a prosperous condition and will soon have all the requisites for statehood.

The present Delegate from that Territory filed with your committee a protest from the board of county commissioners of Idaho County against the proposed annexation, and a similar protest from the commissioners of Kootenai County, and a protest from nearly every voter in the county except about two hundred and fifty. He also filed a protest from about 8,000 citizens of the Territory, from the various boards of trade, and almost all the boards of county commissioners, and a memorial from the legislature of 1886-'87, against any dismemberment of the Territory; a protest from the Democratic central committee of the Territory without a dissenting member, and states that the Republican Territorial central committee is practically a unit; and that south of the four counties referred to there is not a newspaper in the Territory supporting the dismemberment.

Governor E. A. Stevenson, in his official report for 1887, says:

DIVISION OR SEGREGATION OF IDAHO.

In the matter of the proposed division of Idaho Territory and the annexation of the parts to other political bodies, I wish to seriously call the attention of the Department and Congress to the question.

At the time of the organization of Idaho as a Territory, Lewiston, the county seat of Nez Percés County, was designated as a Territorial capital. To accommodate the bulk of the population the capital was in a short time by legislative enactment removed to a more central point, viz, Boise City, where it has since remained. This proved very distasteful to a portion of the inhabitants of Lewiston, who ever after retained the most intense hatred for southern Idaho, and, in order to be revenged found many excuses for the division of Idaho, as soon as the ambition of Washington Territory to become a State gave them an opportunity. The desire for annexation to Washington Territory is by no means unanimous in northern Idaho, as is evinced by the protest presented to the last Congress. The inhabitants of the Cœur d'Alene section, in Shoshone County, do not desire to be annexed to Washington at all, but would prefer if Idaho is to be divided to be annexed to Montana. It is conceded that the bulk of residents of Kootenai and Idaho Counties prefer to remain in Idaho.

Your committee are of the opinion that there are in the Territory of Idaho all the elements of prosperity and civilization to indicate that in the very near future she will be in every respect well equipped and ready for admission as a State. To dismember her at this time is to seriously retard, if not destroy, this bright prospect.

The following tables of statistics are taken from the report of Governor Stevenson to the Secretary of the Interior for 1887 :

Population, 1887.

Counties.	Population.	Counties.	Population.
Ada	10,000	Lemhi	4,600
Alturas	16,250	Nez Perces	9,600
Bear Lake	5,200	Oneida	6,000
Bingham	10,500	Owyhee	3,350
Boisé	4,000	Shoshone	8,500
Cassia	4,000	Washington	5,000
Custer	3,500		
Idaho	4,250	Total	97,250
Kootenai	2,500		

Total vote cast for Delegate to Congress.

Years.	No. of votes cast.	Years.	No. of votes cast.
1880	7,223	1884	12,288
1882	11,020	1886	15,358

At the election of 1886 there were at least 3,000 Mormons who were entitled to vote in the Territory, provided they took the test oath passed by the thirteenth session of the legislative assembly. * * * This oath the Mormons refused to take, although every voter must take this same oath, if challenged, before his ballot can be deposited in the ballot-box.

Valuation of taxable property in the Territory.

Counties.	1886.	1887.	Counties.	1886.	1887.
Ada	\$2,663,603.80	\$2,977,384.00	Lemhi	\$525,021.00	\$835,205.00
Alturas	3,356,956.71	3,806,318.00	Nez Perce	2,205,240.00	*2,032,237.00
Bear Lake	490,176.10	671,898.00	Oneida	777,362.00	1,080,987.00
Bingham	2,048,056.00	2,267,776.00	Owyhee	1,017,836.00	1,096,364.00
Boisé	626,831.50	666,291.00	Shoshone	929,680.00	†920,115.00
Cassia	760,596.00	793,493.00	Washington	635,692.20	783,880.00
Custer	601,108.00	1,090,077.00			
Idaho	654,885.00	753,684.00	Total	17,725,122.00	20,741,192.00
Kootenai	432,078.00	966,473.00			

* Decrease, \$172,967.

† Decrease, \$9,000.

The assessed valuation must be understood as being exceedingly low ; in fact, only a fraction of the real value.

* * * * *

Articles.	Quantity.	Articles.	Quantity.
Grain raised this year.....bushels..	2,374,325	Cattle	442,363
Hay raised this year.....tons..	342,914	Sheep reported	312,248
Horses reported	132,922	Hogs reported.....	60,411

Taxable property.

Years.	Values.	Years.	Values.
1880	\$6,408,089.14	1884	\$15,497,598.34
1881	8,066,365.75	1885	16,230,530.84
1882	9,339,071.05	1886	17,725,122.00
1883	13,938,412.31	1887	20,741,192.00

Production of grain and hay, and number of horses, cattle, etc., in 1887.

Counties.	Grain raised.	Hay produced.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Ada	332,000	25,000	18,000	30,000	50,000	3,000
Alturas	No report.	No report.	6,846	22,959	23,151	561
Bear Lake	55,225	50,000	3,500	19,500	3,000	No report.
Bingham	195,000	75,000	6,631	26,329	8,322	371
Boisé	29,500	11,000	1,800	4,900	1,278	742
Cassia	245,000	10,000	20,000	100,000	50,000	3,000
Custer	42,600	2,914	2,492	9,483	7,798	172
Idaho	295,000	30,000	12,000	15,430	9,000	4,124
Kootenai	No report.	No report.	524	1,150	59	No report.
Lemhi	213,000	12,000	5,250	12,200	No report.	1,275
Nez Percés	469,000	No report.	5,868	15,912	4,640	3,038
Oneida	135,000	12,000	4,661	60,000	25,000	3,000
Owyhee	153,000	40,000	20,000	90,000	100,000	1,000
Shoshone	No report.	No report.	350	600	No report.	138
Washington	210,000	75,000	25,000	40,000	30,000	40,000
Total	2,374,325	342,914	132,922	442,363	312,248	60,411

SETTLEMENT AND SALE OF UNITED STATES LANDS.

For information on this subject I am under obligations to the officers of the United States land office, who have kindly furnished me the following reliable information:

U. S. LAND OFFICE, BOISÉ CITY, IDAHO.

SIR: The following is a full exhibit of the business of this office from the 1st day of July, 1886, to the 31st day of August, 1887, inclusive:

Class.	No.	Acres.
Homestead entries	170	25,194.17
Pre-emption filings	152	20,000.00
Timber-culture entries	73	8,924.36
Desert-land entries	107	33,485.71
Desert-land final proofs	12	1,800.00
Pre-emption final proofs	69	6,879.53
Homestead final proofs	60	8,950.67
Timber-culture final proofs	2	319.80
Total	105,554.24

Of 2,576,731.07 acres of surveyed lands in this district about 1,500,000 are still open to settlement, the greater portion of which is susceptible of cultivation. There are about 7,500,000 acres of unsurveyed land in this district, of which at least one-half is susceptible of cultivation.

Very respectfully,

HARLEN PEFFLEY,
Register,
H. C. BRANSTETTER,
Receiver.

Hon. F. A. STEVENSON,
Governor of Idaho, Boise City, Idaho.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Lewiston, Idaho, September 8, 1887.

SIR: Your letter of August 22, 1887, came duly to hand. I had intended answering earlier, but the work incident to making up a compilation such as you wish, coming as it did when we were very busy making up our monthly reports, prevented an earlier reply.

I have the honor to give the following statistics, gathered from our books: From July 1, 1886, to June 30, 1887, there have been made 216 pre-emption filings, 11 relinquishments, leaving 205, covering 28,580 acres; 126 homestead filings, 3 relinquishments, leaving 123, covering 17,917 acres; 141 cash entries, covering 17,847 acres; 88 final homestead entries, covering 13,928 acres; 34 timber-culture filings, 2 relinquishments, leaving 32, covering 3,600 acres; 3 final timber-culture entries, covering 400 acres.

These figures are only approximately correct. They could be made absolutely so only after an immense deal of labor. As to the amount of land surveyed and still open to settlement statistics would be useless, for the reason that a great deal of such land is too rocky or too steep to be worth anything, while the labor of finding such statistics would be very great. I may say, however, that pretty much all the land fit for cultivation that has been surveyed has been taken up. I can give no intelligent opinion as to the amount of good land that has never been surveyed. There is, however, a great deal, and we are constantly in receipt of applications to file upon unsurveyed land. By reference to the map it will be found that comparatively only a small part of the land in northern Idaho has been surveyed, and it seems to me that a great deal more ought to be surveyed as soon as possible if this section is ever to grow in population. I fully agree with you concerning the Indian reservations. The Nez Percés Reservation is an immense tract of land, containing some of the most fertile land in northern Idaho, and I dare say in the world. It is now almost useless. The Indians do not use it, nor can the settler. If it were opened, each Indian might be given a fine farm, and still leave a great part open for white settlers. I suppose it is so with all the reservations. I am informed that the better class among the Nez Percés are much in favor of taking their lands in severalty. The only solution of the Indian problem seems to be to make a citizen of him, and I shall be glad when the reservation system is abolished altogether.

Hoping that you will excuse haste, I am, with great respect,

Very truly, yours,

FRANCIS F. PATTERSON,
Register.

HON. E. A. STEVENSON,
Governor of Idaho, Boise City, Idaho.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, BLACKFOOT.

SIR: The following is a full exhibit of the business of this office from the 1st day of October, 1886, to the 5th day of September, 1887, inclusive:

Class.	No.	Acres.
Homestead entries.....	202	31,632.17
Pre-emption filings.....	171	25,000.00
Timber-culture entries.....	123	16,094.93
Desert entries.....	77	22,105.35
Desert final proofs.....	54	18,125.86
Pre-emption final proofs.....	46	6,456.98
Homestead final proofs.....	80	12,552.96
Total.....		131,968.25

There are 3,900,000 acres of surveyed lands in the district. About 2,000,000 acres are still open to settlement, the greater portion of which is susceptible of cultivation. There are about 5,000,000 acres of unsurveyed land in this district, of which at least one-half is susceptible of cultivation.

Very respectfully,

JOHN MONTGOMERY,
Receiver.
FRANK W. BEANE,
Register.

HON. E. A. STEVENSON,
Governor of Idaho, Boise City, Idaho.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, *Hailey, Idaho, August 27, 1887.*

SIR: In response to your letter of 22d instant, I furnish herewith all the information obtainable from the records of this office upon the points desired.

July 1, 1886, to June 30, 1887:	
Location during year.....	323
Acres covered thereby.....	45,095
As follows:	
Pre-emption filings.....	123
Acres taken.....	19,680

Homestead entries	64
Acres	15,400
Desert entries	25
Acres	7,055
Timber-culture entries	81
Acres	12,960

The number of settlers who have gone upon the public land during the year would include pre-emptors and homesteaders; in all, 217.

Amount of land upon which proof has been made is, in acres:

Pre-emption entries	5,112
Homestead entries, final proof	4,160
Desert entries, final proof	2,830

Amount of vacant land in this land district susceptible of cultivation is estimated at 750,000 acres, to wit:

Surveyed land	250,000
Unsurveyed land	500,000

I would suggest that in your annual report you impress upon the Secretary of the Interior the great importance of extending the public surveys in this Territory.

Very respectfully, yours,

H. O. BILLINGS,
Register Hailey U. S. Land Office

Hon. E. A. STEVENSON,
Boisé City, Idaho.

School statistics. Table compiled from reports of county superintendents of schools for 1887, except where otherwise noted.

County.	Number of districts.	Number of school-houses.	Number of schools.	Scholars enrolled.	Number of libraries.	Volumes.	Number of boys.	Number of girls.	Total number of children of school age.	Receipts.	Expenses.	Teachers' salaries.
Ada	37	35	46	1,725	2	806	1,101	1,081	2,182	\$30,091.12	\$29,495.58	40 to 100
Alturas	36	11	*34	*1,305	---	---	1,232	1,134	2,366	33,372.16	*30,019.54	---
Bear Lake	*14	14	13	671	---	---	893	920	1,813	3,538.10	3,538.19	---
Bingham	27	17	26	790	1	75	1,288	1,247	2,535	13,933.90	12,679.48	40 to 100
Boisé	*14	12	13	463	1	11	241	222	463	5,516.55	5,956.26	---
Cassia	24	17	25	688	---	---	674	570	1,244	5,407.08	3,868.37	30 to 60
Custer	9	4	7	217	---	---	169	134	303	4,136.19	4,464.87	65 to 100
Idaho	16	10	14	293	2	2	348	308	656	3,206.72	3,442.13	---
Kootenai	7	6	3	*303	---	---	191	167	358	*1,221.73	*1,131.63	---
Lemhi	*9	7	10	211	---	---	169	159	328	3,209.22	2,382.92	---
Nez Percés	52	42	64	1,693	3	27	1,271	1,194	2,465	13,950.11	11,061.21	30 to 60
Oneida	25	5	22	1,412	---	---	1,185	1,079	2,264	6,137.77	5,490.33	20 to 54
Owyhee	10	13	13	212	1	300	---	---	328	13,950.11	6,404.94	60 to 100
Shoshone	*7	2	5	68	---	---	121	102	223	2,532.23	1,860.23	---
Washington	26	21	27	556	---	---	458	520	978	5,773.95	5,684.77	35 to 75
Total	313	216	322	10,607	10	1,220	---	---	18,506	144,976.94	127,389.70	---

* Report of 1886.

(NOTE.—Counties marked with an * having failed to make report for this year, statistics are taken from reports for A. D. 1886.)

Summary.

Total number of school districts.....	313
Total number of school-houses.....	216
Total number of schools.....	322
Total number of scholars enrolled.....	10,607
Total number of school libraries.....	10
Total number of volumes in libraries.....	1,221
Total number of children of school age.....	18,506
Amounts received as per reports of 1880.....	\$147,253.45
Amounts expended as per reports of 1886.....	\$135,313.21

For expenditures and receipts of respective counties see foregoing table.

Estimated number of children on school census roll, who will be over the age of twenty-one years in November, 1888.....	2,000
Estimated number of children under the age of five years in this Territory.....	6,500
Estimated expenditures for school purposes for year 1887.....	\$170,000.00
Estimated receipts for same period.....	\$165,000.00

The estimated values and cost of school-houses and lands, on which some are located, including property dedicated to school purposes, and also houses in process of construction in the respective counties, are shown as follows, viz:

County.	Estimated values, etc.	County.	Estimated values, etc.
Ada.....	\$50,000.00	Lemhi.....	\$3,500.00
Alturas.....	57,000.00	Nez Perces.....	40,000.00
Bear Lake.....	7,000.00	Oneida.....	12,500.00
Bingham.....	12,000.00	Owyhee.....	7,000.00
Boise.....	6,000.00	Shoshone.....	2,500.00
Cassia.....	9,000.00	Washington.....	18,000.00
Custer.....	2,000.00		
Idaho.....	5,000.00	Total estimate.....	279,500.00
Kootenai.....	8,000.00		

INCREASE IN SCHOOL POPULATION.

The files of this office show that the population of school age has been as follows:

Year.	No. of children.	Year.	No. of children.
1870.....	3,350	1879.....	4,855
1871.....	1,395	1880.....	6,698
1872.....	1,309	1881.....	8,193
1873.....	3,473	1882.....	9,650
1874.....	4,010	1883.....	10,936
1875.....	3,852	1884.....	13,140
1876 (no complete report).....		1885.....	15,399
1877.....	4,028	1886.....	17,372
1878.....	4,042	1887 (reports not all in).....	18,506

An inspection will show that our school population has nearly doubled in the last five years, and I am satisfied that, were complete returns made this year, they would show that we have a school population of not less than 20,000.

MINING.

Idaho is essentially a great mining country, and the product of her numerous and extensive mines is one of the great reasons of her present growth and prosperity.

I have given a brief sketch of the principal mines in each of the mining countries. From every part of the Territory the mines have improved as greater depth and development have been reached.

I am under obligations to Mr. H. F. Wild, assayer in charge of the United States assay office of this city, for valuable information and a report of gold and silver bars manufactured during the years 1884, 1885, 1886, and 1887 at said office; also, for a very carefully estimated report of the production of gold, silver, and lead in Idaho for the year 1887, all of which is hereunto annexed; and also a statement of the production of the mines for the years 1885, 1886, and 1887.

Mr. Wild's letter, accompanying his report, is also annexed.

UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE, BOISÉ CITY, IDAHO,
September 6, 1887.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith my estimate of the production of precious metals in Idaho for the year ending October 1, 1887.

I have thought that it might be of interest to you to know how largely the amount of gold bullion handled in this office, instead of being sent out of the Territory for sale, is increasing, and therefore inclose comparative statements of the business done during the fiscal years 1884, 1885, 1886, and 1887; also during the months of July and August of 1886 and 1887. The latter statement shows that the business is still growing steadily.

Very respectfully,

His Excellency A. E. STEVENSON,
Governor.

H. F. WILD,
Assayer in Charge.

Comparative statement of gold and silver bars manufactured at the United States assay office, Boise City, Idaho, during the fiscal years 1884, 1885, 1886, and 1887; also for the months of July and August of 1886 and 1887.

1884	\$150,615.00
1885	183,960.50
1886	122,046.61
1887	446,641.66
July, 1886	82,642.86
August, 1886	31,311.46
July, 1887	154,635.04
August, 1887	103,394.48

Production of gold, silver, and lead.

1885	\$5,486,000
1886	5,755,602
1887	9,245,589

Estimate of H. F. Wild, assayer United States assay office, Boise City, Idaho, of the production of gold, silver, and lead in the Territory of Idaho during the year ending September 30, 1887:

Counties.	Value of gold.	Coin value of silver.	Value of lead at \$4.50.	Total values.
Ada	\$2,108.00	\$28.00		\$2,136.00
Alburas	393,715.00	2,126,000.00	\$900,000.00	3,419,715.00
Bingham	71,152.00	90.00		71,242.00
Boisé	500,000.00	150,000.00		650,000.00
Caasia	5,954.00	42.00		5,996.00
Custer	140,000.00	1,500,000.00	225,000.00	1,865,000.00
Idaho	300,000.00	6,000.00		306,000.00
Lemhi	585,000.00	375,000.00	620,000.00	1,580,000.00
Nez Perces	14,500.00			14,500.00
Owyhee	75,000.00	75,000.00		150,000.00
Shoshone	300,000.00	400,000.00	450,000.00	1,150,000.00
Washington	30,000.00	1,000.00		31,000.00
Total	2,417,429.00	4,633,160.00	2,195,000.00	9,245,589.00

RECAPITULATION.

Gold	\$2,417,429.00
Silver	4,633,160.00
Lead	2,195,000.00
Total	9,245,589.00

Without going further into the Territorial, mining, and agricultural interests to be affected by this proposed legislation, your committee are of the opinion that there is such a preponderance of public sentiment within the limits of the four counties to be affected, and such an overwhelming objection to it in the remainder of the Territory, as to constitute all-sufficient reasons why the proposed legislation should not be favored.

Your committee do therefore unanimously recommend that the aforesaid bills be laid upon the table and do not pass.